

DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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 DAMASCUS, MD 20872
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THE BEACON

FEBRUARY 2017



CLERGY AND STAFF:

David Cooney, Senior Pastor

Amanda McMurtrey
 Associate Pastor /
 Christian Formation

Polly Edmonds Baldrige
 Minister of Music & Worship Arts

Nick Works
 Director of Youth Ministry

Cora Horst
 Director, Pleasant Plains Preschool

Jane Webb
 Office Manager

Linda Stastny
 Office Administrator

Stephen Kalnoske
 Organist / Pianist / Worship Arts

Steve Malley / Bookkeeper

Lisa Marshall / Property Manager

Tyrone (TJ) Budd, Jr. /
 Weekday AM Custodian

Julio Pedraza /
 Weeknight & Sunday AM Custodian

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Devoted Servants, Drawn to Jesus, Dedicated to Making Disciples

Dear Friends,

As we enter what is often a cold, snowy, and gray month, I have been reflecting on bright spots. One such spot in February is Valentine's Day. This day of love and romance accompanied by cards, flowers, candy, and candlelight dinners warms an otherwise cold-time period. Is that why it was put on the calendar in February? No, there are actually two theories about that.

The day itself is actually the feast day for St. Valentine, in the same way that March 17 is the feast day for St. Patrick. The date was set to commemorate his martyrdom, which happened around the year 269.

Others say that it was more than that. As we know, many Christian-feast days and holy days were placed on or close to pagan celebrations with the intent to replace those pagan celebrations. Well, Lupercalia was just such a pagan celebration that occurred on February 15. What in the world is Lupercalia? It was a fertility festival dedicated to the Roman god of agriculture – Faunus. Roman priests, belonging to the order of Luperci, would gather at the cave where it was said the founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus, were cared for as infants by a she-wolf or lupa. There they sacrificed a goat for fertility and a dog for purification. They then cut the goat hide into strips, dipped them in the sacrificial blood, and went about Rome slapping women and crop fields with them to make them more fertile. After the Christianization of the Roman Empire, this practice was outlawed and the pope replaced it with St. Valentine's Day. I would call that an upgrade, but that's just me.

This really caught on in the Middle Ages, especially in France and England. Because the day coincided with the mating season of birds in these countries, the emphasis began to shift to romance and after 1400 there is evidence of Valentine greetings, poems, and cards. Today, over one billion cards are sent, making it the second largest card-sending day, behind only Christmas at 2.6 billion.

Valentine himself was a priest in Rome during the difficult reign of Claudius who persecuted Christians. Valentine was known to aid Christians being persecuted. The offense that led to his martyrdom was that he married Christian couples. Rome, a morally freewheeling society at that time, opposed marriage, primarily on the basis that married men would be reticent to serve in the military. The Church, of course, supported marriage, and Valentine followed the church. It literally cost him his life. Legend has it that he healed the daughter of a prison guard of blindness and that before his death he wrote her a note signed "From your Valentine."

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Pastor's Article (cont'd)

Today Valentine is the Patron Saint of pledged couples, engaged couples, happy marriages, love, lovers, young people, and greetings. These all make sense to me. A little less obvious is that he is also the Patron Saint of beekeepers, epilepsy, fainting, plague, and travelers. I suppose we all have to multitask these days.

Wherever you fall on the romance scale, I think this is a good day to thank God for the love God shares with us, and to thank God for the love we receive, be it from spouses or parents or family or friends. It is also a good time to remember that Christ calls us to extend love in whatever ways we can. Everyone likes to hear the words that they are special, that they are loved. With whom might you share those words this Valentine's Day?

Happy Valentine's Day. You are special to me.

- David

Bells Are Ringing

Come join the Young At Heart group for This "Sweetheart of a Musical" which opens with eight girls complaining about the doldrums - they're just not getting enough telephone calls. The solution is a simple announcement, an advertisement for "Susanswerphone," a telephone answering service that gets El-la Peterson into a romantic comedy with a man she has never met but soon falls in love with!

Bells Are Ringing \$12/per person

Sunday, February 5, 2017 - Performance at 2:00 pm

Frederick Community College, Kussmaul Theatre

7932 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, MD.

Presented by the Fredericktown Players with our own

Angie Thompson directing.

This event is open to all. Tickets are limited.

We will carpool from church leaving at 1:00 pm.

We will have dinner after the musical at a local restaurant (*cost of dinner is your responsibility*)

You **MUST** make a reservation for the musical and dinner with

Sandra Malley, sandra.malley@LNF.com

or call at 301-518-2220.



**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DURING THE
WINTER MONTHS, WE WILL KEEP THE
WEBSITE HOME PAGE
(www.damascusumc.org)**

AND

**OFFICE VOICEMAIL MESSAGE
UP TO DATE WITH POSTPONEMENTS AND
CANCELLATIONS AS SOON AS THE
DECISIONS ARE MADE.**

Did you know?

The Upper Room Living Prayer Center has a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week intercessory prayer ministry staffed by Christian volunteers. When you call 1-800-251-2468, a person will answer the phone, receive your prayer request and pray with you. After your call, your prayer concern will be forwarded to one of 300 Upper Room Covenant Prayer Groups located all over the world. On the Web, requests can be submitted by visiting www.umc.org, click on "pray" in the green box. Your request will be e-mailed to the Prayer Center within 24 hours and sent out to Upper Room Covenant Prayer Groups as well. More than 30,000 prayer requests are received each month.





2017

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 28

5:45 - 6:30 pm - DUMC Dining Hall

Cost for dinner is: \$6.00 per person

Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, March 1

6:30 am: Service of Ashes, followed by a light breakfast
12:00 noon: Service of Ashes
7:00 pm: Service of Ashes and Communion with Chancel Choir and Women's Ensemble participating

Small Group Lenten Bible Studies

Sundays @ 9:30 am (Begins Sunday, March 5)

Join Pastor David for a deeper look at our sermon series "From Mountain to Garden."

Each week he will explore the scripture readings used in worship and share insights beyond the sermon.

Mondays @ 6:30 pm (Begins Monday, March 6)

Three Simple Rules That Will Change the World by Rueben P. Job.

Join Pastor Amanda as she explores what John Wesley called the Three Simple Rules. They are simple to understand, but putting them into practice is another thing altogether. This is a 5-week study class. Books can be purchased on either cokesbury.com or amazon.com in both book and ebook format.

Please have your book for the first class.

Morning Communion

Starting **Wednesday, March 8 at 6:45 am** for **six** consecutive Wednesdays.

A quick mid-week refocusing for the Lenten Journey.

Join Pastor Amanda each week for a time of prayer, devotion, and communion.

We will be done by 7:00 am each week with a light breakfast to follow.

Stop by on your way to school or work!

Sharing My Holy Lands

Starting **Wednesday, March 8 at 6:30 pm** in the **Dining Hall**
for **five** consecutive Wednesdays through April 5.

We all know of the important places Jesus walked, preached, ministered and more from mountain tops to hillsides to gardens. Join us each week and hear a different member of the congregation share the stories of their "holy lands." The places that have been meaningful in their journey with Christ, the locations they feel close to God, and the spaces that connect them to the Holy.

**The Praise Artisans Guild presents our *Lenten Hallway Display*,
the travels and missions of our wonderful own Martin Carr.
Please wander through the Great Hall hallway and enjoy photos
and paintings from his extensive missions and service to Christ.**



Registration for Learning about Communion Classes Lent 2017

Children in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade and their parents are invited to join our Learning about Communion Classes to be held during Lent this year. The classes comprise five one-hour sessions, and both the child and his/her parent attend each session. This year our classes are planned for **Sunday Mornings during the 11am service**, and will be led by Susan James and Cathy Scarbrough. The classes will be held in the Dining Hall.

**Four Sunday mornings: Feb. 26th, March 5th, March 12th, and March 26th
11am to 12 noon in the Dining Hall,
and our final session is Friday, March 31, 2017, 7:00-7:45pm,
a special communion service with Pastor Amanda!**

Classes are limited to 10 families, so be sure to register early! A commitment to attend all five sessions is important, and will help to make the experience more meaningful to your child.

We will have lots of fun learning about communion, making commemorative banners, and even making our own bread that will be used in our final session when we celebrate communion on the altar.

Complete the attached registration form and turn it in to the church office or mail directly to Cathy Scarbrough at 20656 Anndyke Way, Germantown, MD 20874. Any questions? Please call Cathy at (301) 972-6844 or email her at tom.scarbrough@verizon.net.

At the first session, a fee of \$10 per student is requested to help offset the costs of materials.

Child's Name: _____ Grade _____ Age _____

Parents' Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone numbers: _____

Email Address: _____

Any food allergies? _____

Spiritual Formation



Men's Night Out for February

The Men of DUMC
(and male friends, family & neighbors)
are invited for a Men's Night Out on

Monday, February 27, 2017

at 6:00 pm at

Longhorn Steak House

20017 Century Blvd.

Gaithersburg, MD

Phone: (240) 686-2060

RSVP to Ted Ross at 301-704-7992.

Please plan to join us ! ! !



LADIES' NIGHT OUT

**THERE WILL BE NO
Ladies' Night Out in February**

When: MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017

**Where: Guapo's at The Rio
9811 Washingtonian Blvd.
Gaithersburg, MD**

**THERE WILL BE NO
Ladies' Night Out in April**

**Fellowship · Conversation · Companionship ·
Fun · Sisterhood · Everyone Invited**

**CONTACT PASTOR AMANDA
AMANDA.MCMURTREY@DAMASCUSUMC.ORG
Call 301-253-0022 or Text 970-231-5123**

New Small Group Study Beginning!!

Meet Me at the Trailhead: Mapping My Discipleship Path

Wednesday Nights - Starting February 1 (6 weeks)

7:00-8:30 pm in the Library (main building, lower level)

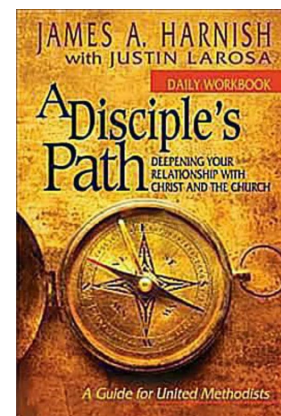
**Have you wondered if there is more to church
than Sunday worship service?**

Do you want to get more involved, but aren't sure where to begin?

**This group provides an excellent way for you to make new friends, share in fellowship,
build and strengthen your relationship with Christ, learn about Methodism and DUMC.**

**We will use James Harnish's book, *A Disciple's Path*, to help frame our conversation.
Join us in the Library each Wednesday . Books will be provided.
There is no cost for this small group study.**

If you have questions, contact Don Hecht at [240.381.3108](tel:240.381.3108) or don.hecht@avendra.com.



Spiritual Formation (cont'd)

MARTIN'S®

Who: **Young at Heart Group**

What: Martin's Potato Chip Factory (45 minutes). See how potato chips are made, enjoy fresh samples, and shop in their store. Additionally, we will enjoy a 1-hour tour of the Harley Davidson Factory where several of their motorcycle models are made. Shopping will be available on both tours. We will have lunch at a nearby restaurant after the tours.



When: **March 21, 2017**

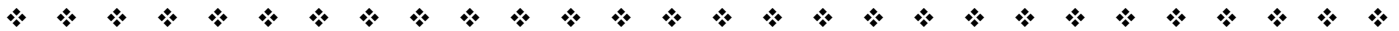
Time: **Depart** church parking lot at 9:00 am. We will carpool to Thomasville & York, PA, **returning** to the church parking lot at approximately **4:00 pm**.

Cost: Cost of your lunch. Tours are free.

Reservations Required: Limited to 18 adults.

Contact Sandra Malley, Sandra.malley@LNF.com or 301-518-2220.

SPECIAL INFORMATION: No jewelry is allowed, fully enclosed shoes with 1 inch or less heel required, no cameras in plant, no camera bags or backpacks, no sleeveless attire, and hairnets must be worn (supplied by Martin's).



Invitation: Women's Spring Retreat

Ladies: You need this! A time for yourself to relax and regenerate - physically and spiritually. An invitation to all women of the church!

Our weekend will begin Friday evening, April 28 to Saturday evening, April 29. You only need to pack an overnight bag, the rest is provided for your comfort. We will leave Damascus by 5 pm. Friday, and travel about 40 minutes away to The Brethren Center, in New Windsor, MD. The cost per person is \$100 and includes meals, accommodations, and retreat supplies.

Building connections with each other begins Friday evening. We will have planned activities, choice activities and times of reflection Friday evening through Saturday, ending by 5:15 pm, Saturday. You may choose to have dinner with friends on the way home!

Please consider joining this 2017 retreat. Simply fill out the registration form (next page) and include the registration fee. A copy of the application may also be found on the DUMC website. In order to plan for programming, materials, and retreat center accommodations, we ask that registration forms be submitted by Wednesday, April 5.

Spread the word and come join us for a great getaway weekend with just the girls...



Women's 2017 Spring Retreat Registration

WHEN: 5 p.m., Friday, April 28 to Saturday evening, April 29

WHERE: Brethren Center

Zigler Hospitality Center, 500 Main Street, New Windsor, MD 21776.
<http://www.brethren.org/ziglerhospitality>

Name: _____

Address : _____

Phone: (home) _____ (work) _____ (cell) _____

E-mail address: (please print legibly) _____

Emergency Contact: _____ (phone) _____

Please list any dietary restrictions: _____

Motel Style Lodging - all linens are provided ☺

3 Meals - served Buffet Style (We will depart on Saturday at 5:15 for home OR have dinner with friends)

Please check room selection below:

☐ Single room (3 single rooms available- first come, first serve)

☐ Double room

If you have a roommate already, please share the name: _____.

Otherwise, the planning committee will coordinate roommates.

☐ Quad room (3 available, first come first serve)

If you have a roommates already, share the names: _____.

Otherwise, the planning committee will coordinate roommates.

☐ List any mobility concerns _____

Need financial assistance? Contact Robin Cooney (301) 882-4165.

Transportation: ☐ I can drive (# of passengers I can transport _____)

☐ I will need a ride

☐ **\$100 Registration Fee is attached, \$120 for a single room.**

**Make checks payable to DUMW (Damascus United Methodist Women),
and submit with this completed form to the church office.**

Deadline for registration is Wednesday, April 5.



Calling all Heros!!

Save the date for VBS 2017, July 24 – 28!

Don't miss this exciting chance to discover your strength in God.
Any adults or youth willing to volunteer can contact Pastor Amanda at
amanda.damascusumc.org or [301-253-0022](tel:301-253-0022).



February United Methodist Women News

Susanna JOY Circle will meet in the church Dining Hall at 10:00 am on **Monday, February 13**. We will be hand making Valentine cards for shut-ins, etc.

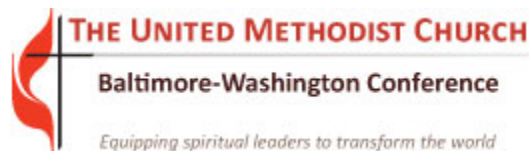
The **WWJD Circle** will meet on **Thursday, February 16**, at the home of Bonnie Custer, 12121 Merricks Court, Monrovia, MD. We will gather at 7:30 pm and enjoy a presentation of videos, pictures, and experiences of those that cruised the Mediterranean Sea visiting places that St. Paul visited on his 2nd and 3rd journeys.

This circle is open to all women.

Please call Bonnie at [301-831-9766](tel:301-831-9766) or Marcia Hofman at [301-253-2960](tel:301-253-2960) if you need directions or have questions about the circle.

Please plan to join us!

Baltimore-Washington Conference College Scholarship Program



The Baltimore-Washington Conference will once again be offering college scholarships for the Fall 2017 semester. Students can apply January 3 – March 1, 2017 through an online application system. Scholarships are available to students attending or enrolling in accredited colleges and universities in the United States.

Students must be an active member of a church for at least one year and be attending (or will attend) an accredited college or university within the United States full-time. Students will need to provide their official transcript (high school or college) and contact information for two church references (pastor and another member of the church). In addition, the student must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

For additional information and to apply, visit <http://www.bwcumc.org/administration/finance/local-church-resources/scholarships/>.

Please contact Cheryl Cook at ccook@bwcumc.org or [410-309-3446](tel:410-309-3446) with questions.

Worship Arts News and Events

February 2017

Polly Edmonds Baldrige, Minister of Music and Worship Arts
240-750-8287 | polly.baldrige@damascusumc.org

Stephen Kalnoske, Organist | 240-832-2112 | stephenkarnoske@gmail.com

2016-2017:
4th Sunday Concert Series presents

On Broadway



**A Recital of Musical Theater Standards
and New Favorites**

**Sunday, February 26, 2017
3 pm in Damascus UMC Sanctuary**

Enjoy a delightful afternoon of theatrical music as students from Polly Baldrige's private vocal studio interpret musical theater favorites from the last seven decades. Katherine Williams will accompany these gifted singing actors.

Free-will offering

*Table for Five...
Thousand
Children's Musical*

The Choristers are preparing to share another musical on Sunday, March 5, during the 8:15 and 11 am services. Any children wishing to participate can still join the cast. Contact Polly Baldrige for more information!

New England Search . . .



Charles Wesley Singers
are traveling to
New England
on tour from
June 20 to 27, 2017.

If you have any
family and friends
in New England that
might host our choir,
please be in contact
with Polly to share
suggestions and names.

Groups and soloists are invited to share special music at the offertory during the 8:15 and/or 11 am services during the year. Please contact Polly if you feel called to serve in this way.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Carol Yocum, Chairperson
carolyocum@msn.com / 301-788-6446

February 5, 2017:

All adults and youth are invited to share with our Nicaragua team who recently returned from their trip. During a Sunday school hour the team will share with the youth at the Youth Chapel and all interested adults from 8:15 & 11:00 am worship and from adult Sunday school classes in an assigned room in the main building.

March 11, 2017: Training to be a Volunteer in Mission

Training days for Damascus will be during the regional Leadership Days. The Washington Region will be held at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Greenbelt, MD on March 11 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The UMVIM Leadership Training class will be held from 1:30 - 3:00 pm. There will be a group from DUMC going to this training event. Please contact Carol Yocum if you want to get the training.

May 2017: Annual VIM Plant and Flower Sale will take place in the DUMC Pavillion. Dates TBD. This is a fundraiser that supports our VIM trips.

May 21, 2017: Mission Sunday will be celebrated during both worship services.

June 2017:

DUMC is in the process of planning a Volunteer In Mission (VIM) trip in mid to late June of 2017 to help people recover and rebuild in WVA who were impacted by this past summer's floods. Interested? Contact Carol Yocum at carolyocum@msn.com or 301-788-6446. The team will be looking for people with skills in the trades, painting, outdoor clean-up.

A VIM team to WVA will travel by vehicles so the costs will be relatively low. Scholarships to participate are available for those who need it. Plans are in the early stages and definitive costs have not been determined as yet.

July 16 - July 21: Habitat for Humanity

Our annual Garrett County Habitat for Humanity trip will be July 16 to July 21. Mark your calendars now. Contact Anita Duvall at 301-972-6419 if you are interested in participating in the July trip.

Would you like to be a Mission ministry volunteer through DUMC?

Speak to Carol Yocum

A "Being in Mission" Mandate from Matthew 20:20-28

20 It was about that time that the mother of the Zebedee brothers came with her two sons and knelt before Jesus with a request.

21 "What do you want?" Jesus asked.

She said, "Give your word that these two sons of mine will be awarded the highest places of honor in your kingdom, one at your right hand, one at your left hand."

22 Jesus responded, "You have no idea what you're asking." And he said to James and John, "Are you capable of drinking the cup that I'm about to drink?"

They said, "Sure, why not?"

23 Jesus said, "Come to think of it, you *are* going to drink my cup. But as to awarding places of honor, that's not my business. My Father is taking care of that."

24-28 When the ten others heard about this, they lost their tempers, thoroughly disgusted with the two brothers. So Jesus got them together to settle things down. He said, "You've observed how godless rulers throw their weight around, how quickly a little power goes to their heads. It's not going to be that way with you. **Whoever wants to be great must become a servant.** Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: **He came to serve, not be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for the many who are held hostage.**"

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

Carol Yocum, Chairperson
carolyocum@msn.com / 301-788-6446

Way to go Mary and Gabrielle!!!

Mary Nieter and Gabrielle Hulcher will finish their intensive training this month and will be commissioned with the rest of their class as Stephen Ministers. The commissioning banquet will be held on February 26. Shortly thereafter we will commission them during regular services here at DUMC. When you see these lovely disciples, please tell them thank you and congratulations!



Between Cultures was thrilled to receive a delegation of 14 members from Damascus United Methodist Church from Jan 2 to 9 in Nicaragua! They visited their sister community of La Danta, staying in their homes and helping paint the church and fix up the playground. They also talked about what it means to think about sustainable projects that the community can contribute to. While in Managua, the group visited a farm where boys who formerly worked in the markets or traffic lights now live and have a safe place to grow up, donating soccer balls and jerseys to them.

The group made a trip to San Juan Oriente for a brief history of pottery making in Nicaragua by traditional Mayan practices. They also attended the Christian Base Community 14ce De Septiembre's church service and donated the school supplies and money for teachers' salaries that the Sunday School classes at DUMC so generously collected.

They were also able to meet with Belinda Forbes, a Methodist missionary doing dental work on the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua that DUMC now supports as well. And the trip wouldn't have been complete without a little downtime at the Apoyo Lagoon, with a beautiful view. We were very grateful to have them here, and to get to introduce them to Sophia!

- The Between Cultures Team



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

Carol Yocum, Chairperson
carolyocum@msn.com / 301-788-6446



Volunteers Needed

FAITH CONNECTIONS HELP LINE (Serve from your home.)

- ▶ Serves with the Good Shepherd team to answer Helpline phone calls 3 days per month
- ▶ Provide assistance and referrals to families facing financial issues such as eviction.

FAITH CONNECTIONS provides emergency service to families in crisis situations and works in advocacy to support efforts to empower the individual/family towards self-reliance. Faith Connections is a collaboration of the churches in the Damascus-Clarksburg area.

For more information please call 301-512-5127 or Debbie@Faith-Connections.org

“...Love your neighbor as yourself” Matt. 22:39

**Have you been searching for a ministry to serve in the Greater Damascus Community?
www.Faith-Connections.org**



You can make a difference in our community!

Damascus HELP needs volunteers (over age 18 due to insurance restrictions) to help in various capacities. HELP is a non-profit organization that provides emergency assistance to those needy individuals in the 20871(Clarksburg), 20872(Damascus), and 20882 (Gaithersburg and Laytonsville- north of Brink Rd.) zip codes.

Officers of the Day are needed to work from home (once a month) to answer calls from clients.

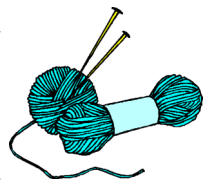
We are also in need of food drivers to deliver food, client drivers to take individuals to appointments, and volunteers to help with transporting furniture to clients in need.

Our furniture committee is also seeking persons or organizations with a truck or SUV to help assist with furniture moving.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities please call 301-253-4100 or e-mail dh20872@aol.com or www.damascushelp.org for more information.

Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry **Monday, February 20 at 12:30 pm** **Church Office**

Prayer Shawl Ministry is a creative way to combine the love of knitting and/or crocheting with ministry to people in need of comfort. The shawls we make offer tangible evidence of God's love to each recipient. If you would like to give a prayer shawl to someone whom you know, you can contact one of the pastors, or Cathy Heinbaugh, cheinbaugh@comcast.net, 301-253-0742, or Jan Mullinix, jmullinix74@yahoo.com, 301-482-1122.



The Upper Room

Please feel free to take a copy of the Upper Room which is kept in the pew hymnal racks in our Sanctuary.

Better yet, take a couple of copies and share with friends and neighbors.

This publication is a wonderful way to encourage daily scripture reading!

DUMC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP WINTER SCHEDULE

Youth Chapel
Sundays @ 9:30 am
Breakfast/Music/Classes by age

February 2017 - Youth Fellowship
Sunday nights @ 6:00 pm
Includes Dinner and an Activity
Sunday 2/5
Super Bowl Party @ the Bratburds
Sunday 2/12
Valentine's Day Game Night
Sunday 2/19
Destination UnKnown
Sunday 2/26
Youth Service Project

March 2017 - Youth Fellowship
Sunday nights @ 6:00 pm
Includes Dinner and an Activity
Sunday 3/5
Rockin Jump Trampolines in Gaithersburg
Sunday 3/12
Pie (3.14... Like the math equation)
Party and Devotions
Sunday 3/19
Highland Games
Sunday 3/26
Service project

UMYFO Meeting
Sunday, February 19
at 4:00 pm in the
church office.

For questions or
more info,
contact Pastor Nick
at [nick.works@](mailto:nick.works@damascusumc.org)
[damascusumc.org](mailto:nick.works@damascusumc.org)
or 240-751-6695.

Youth Praise Band
Sundays @ 3:30 pm
1st & 3rd weeks
of the month

Youth Bell Choir
Sundays @ 4 pm
on the Stage

Charles Wesley
Singers Practice
Sundays @ 5 pm
in the Choir Room

Youth Puppets
Wednesdays @ 5 pm
in the Great Hall

WesleyNexus
Program on
February 12, 2017 -
Evolution Weekend

WesleyNexus and supporting partners are sponsoring a special program that will be live-streamed on the world-wide web. The subject in 2017 will be "Are Our Children at Risk? Food, Insecurity, Climate Change, Racial Bias." The live streaming program begins at 3:00 pm on Sunday, February 12, ending by 5:00 pm. Our newly elected Bishop LaTrelle Easterling will provide the "faith perspective" on each of the presentations.

If any Youth and/or Parents would like to watch the session, Pastor Nick would be glad to join you in the Church Annex. Please RSVP to Nick at nick.works@damascusumc.org

Announcements



Opening Wednesday, February 1 Damascus Heritage Society Museum Presents *The Collections Exhibit*

Stroll down memory lane with collections of things in the past, simpler times, when the products and everyday items were much different than now. It is for those that remember, but most importantly, it will make available to younger generations, knowledge & awareness of things they have never seen before. The museum is open Wednesdays & Saturdays noon to 4:00 pm.

NOTE: The museum is located behind the Senior Center @ the Library.

Harwood House Thrift Shop

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped make this past year our most successful year yet at Harwood House. Volunteers, shoppers, donors, etc. we could not have done it without your support! We were able to support our community and church in ways we never thought possible when the Thrift Shop began. A very heartfelt Thank You!!

We would also like to welcome our new volunteers this year and are very grateful for their help. Of course, we would always accept more volunteers if anyone is interested!!

For the month of February, don't forget your Valentine gifts, supplies, and decorations are out at the shop! Stop by and see our many offerings.

Again, many blessings and thanks to everyone!

Thank You!

Tutoring Programs in Prison Ministry

There are new opportunities in 2017 for service at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility in Clarksburg:

- Tutoring Math and/or Language Arts with students who are working to pass the GED exam. Tutors can choose times during these hours on weekdays: 8-11 am, 1-4 pm, and 6-9 pm. Generally a tutor will work one 1 - 2 hour session per week. If you want to tutor Social Studies or Science, we are asking you to tutor Language Arts with a focus on readings in Social Studies or Science. It seems that most of our students can pass the Social Studies or Science GED tests if they have a good background in Language Arts, and can readily understand the readings given them.
- Teaching in a Literacy class started in January for those inmates who need to improve reading skills. The library at MCCF is willing to give us space on Fridays from 8:30-11:00.

It is a joy to work as a tutor as the inmates are so grateful for the help they receive from volunteer tutors and are very motivated to work hard.

If you are interested in one or both of these programs please contact me. You will need to complete the process to become a volunteer at the jail.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Mary Wasik

Marywasik2000@yahoo.com

[301-351-0614](tel:301-351-0614)

PLEASE NOTE: This Ministry is not a DUMC sponsored program, but information that was received in the office that we are passing onto members. For questions, please refer to Ms. Waskik.

Announcements (cont'd)

Welcoming Wednesday Dinners for February

The *Welcoming Wednesday Dinners* are available in the Church Dining Hall. We serve from 5:45 pm to 6:30 pm. The suggested donation is \$7.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children under 12. This is a chance to connect with your church family mid-week. It is also a **great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to fellowship at DUMC!**



February 1: Balsamic Glazed Chicken, Caprese Pasta, Green Beans, Spinach Salad & Strawberry Poke Cake

February 8: Pork Chops, sauerkraut & apples, roasted potatoes, vegetable & dessert

February 15: Chicken Marengo, Salad, Rice, vegetable & dessert

February 22: CHILI Cook-off Competition ! Chili, cornbread, salad, and dessert.
(Want to participate, see article below for more details !!!)

Like to cook? Want to help this ministry? You can volunteer for only a few hours on Wednesdays. We need helpers for dishwashing, general preparation, cooking and baking. Please sign up in the Narthex on Sundays, come by during dinners, or email gabriellehulcher@gmail.com.

***NOTE** – Menus are subject to change.



Calling All Creative Chili Chefs! The Damascus UMC Chili Cook-Off is Coming !!!

*(to be served for Wonderful Wednesday Dinner
on Feb. 22)*

Bring your best recipe and your ingredients (enough for at least a large double or triple batch) after the 11:00 am church service on Sunday, February 19, for a fun afternoon of cooking in the DUMC kitchen. *(Please note that ALL chili's must be cooked in the DUMC kitchen in order to be served at the Wednesday Night Dinner, in accordance with Montgomery County regulations.)*

It's time to get creative: think of White Chicken Chili, Spicy, Cincinnati, Vegetarian, and whatever family recipe that your Great-Grandma concocted during the 1st World War. Our simmering pots of savory fare - along with accompanying corn bread, salad, and dessert - will then be available for a fun night of sampling at the Wednesday Night Dinner on **February 22**. Let the samplers do the judging! Prizes will be awarded!!

To sign up or for more information: please call Susan Leathery at [301-801-2227](tel:301-801-2227) or email her at Lilblueyes20872@yahoo.com

Announcements (cont'd)

Young at Heart Activities - 2017

Sunday, February 5:

Join us to see a musical production of “**Bells are Ringing**” (directed by our own Angie Thompson!) at Frederick Community College. Show time is at 2:00 pm and tickets are \$12 per person. See article on page #2.

Contact person: Sandra Malley / 301-518-2220

March 21, 2017

TWO Factory Tours!

1) Martin's Chip Factory Tour, Thomasville, PA

2) Harley Davidson Factory Tour, York, PA.

Trip will include touring, tasting & shopping. Both tours are free but you will need \$\$ for lunch on the road. Will depart DUMC at 9 am, returning at 4 pm. See article on page #6 for more info.



Sunday, April 2, 2017 2:45 - 6:00 pm \$10

Social dance which features waltz lessons, followed by dancing and live music in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, Bethesda. No partner or experience needed. We'll gather for dinner afterwards at the Irish Inn.

Contact person: Kathryn Smith 301-540-1191

Saturday, May 7 12 - 4 p.m.

Catoctin Furnace Spring Arts & Crafts Festival.

Food, live music, demonstrations, heirloom plants, tours, baked goods and handmade arts & crafts.

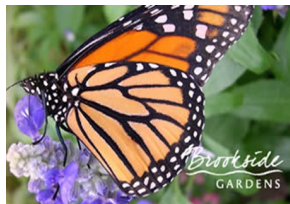
Contact person: Sue Constantinides/ 301-253-6591

JUNE

Tour of **Brookside Gardens and Wings of Fancy Butterfly House**, Wheaton. Lunch afterwards nearby. Date TBD.

Contact person:

Sharon Walton / 301-253- 4860.



Wednesday, June 28:



Potluck Lunch and Fellowship at the **Tea Room, Gambrill State Park**, Frederick, MD.

Contact person: Jane Webb / 240-620-6920

JULY

Frederick Keys Baseball Game.

Date TBD.

Contact person: Mike Springirth / 240-832-2404



Thursday, August 10

Annapolis Bay Cruise 11:00– 3:00 \$45

Cruise the Chesapeake Bay, see historic lighthouses and hear tales of smuggling and piracy on the Chesapeake Bay. Time afterward to explore historic Annapolis.

Contact person: Sue Constantinides / 301-651-1178.

Sunday, August 20

Picnic & Swimming at the home of Bill & Lora Maynard, Damascus.

Contact persons: Lora & Bill Maynard / 301-461-0850.

SEPTEMBER

Pontoon Ride at Blackhills

Park in Clarksburg with dinner to follow. More info to come.

Contact person: Kathy Celli / 301-253-9652.



OCTOBER

“Steam into History,” 1860's replica steam locomotive civil war train ride, New Freedom, PA.

Contact person: Sandra Malley / 301-518-2220

NOVEMBER

Museum of the Bible, Washington, DC. A 430,000 sq. ft. museum that invites all people to engage in the Bible. Scheduled for completion this fall, grand opening is advertised for November, 2017!

Contact person: Sandra Malley / 301-518-2220

DECEMBER

Traditional Young at Heart Christmas Dinner & Party, held at DUMC, Dining Room???

Coordinator/Contact person needed for this event to take place. Call Ted, Sue or Jane to volunteer.

Sight and Sound Theater's **Miracle of Christmas**, Ronks, PA.

Contact person: Sue Constantinides / 301-651-1178



Office Information

PLEASE NOTE:

Main office: 301-253-0022

PASTORS:

David S. Cooney, ext. #103
cell: 240-529-8887 / david.cooney@damascusumc.org

Amanda P. McMurtrey, ext. #104
cell: 970-231-5123 /
amanda.mcmurtrey@damascusumc.org

STAFF:

Polly Edmonds Baldrige,
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Stephen Kalnoske, Organist
cell: 240-832-2112
stephenkarnoske@gmail.com

Nick Works,
Director of Youth
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Jane Webb, Office Manager
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Linda Stastny, Office Administrator
ext. #102 / office@damascusumc.org

Lisa Marshall, Property Manager
cell: 301-253-5241 /
lisa.marshall@damascusumc.org

Steve Malley, Bookkeeper
ext. #106 / steve.malley@damascusumc.org
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dreamstime.com

**The Office will be closed on
Monday, February 20 for
President's Day and will
re-open Tuesday, February 21
at 8:00 am.**

Administrative Meetings For February, 2017

- Feb. 1 Office Staff Meeting
10:00 am in the Annex/CR
- Feb. 2 First Thursday Ministries Meeting
7:00 pm in the Sanctuary
- ▶ Trustees Meeting to follow
in the **Great Hall/back**
 - ▶ Missions Meeting to follow
in the **Great Hall/Stage Side**
 - ▶ Children's Ministry Meeting to
follow in the **Sacristy**
- Feb. 19 UMYFO Meeting
4:00 pm in the Annex
- Feb. 23 Administrative Board Meeting
7:00 pm in the Dining Hall/back

Office Hours

The office is open Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am - 6:00 p.m. On Friday, we open at 8:00 a.m., sometimes close for lunch (approx. an hr.) and occasionally close for the day at 4:00 p.m. Additionally,

Pastor David is off on Fridays.

Pastor Amanda is off on Tuesdays.

Jane Webb is off on Mondays.

Linda Stastny is off on Tuesdays.

Please keep this in mind when waiting for a response to e-mail or phone messages.

Thank you !

IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING
ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION
IN THE MARCH BEACON
WILL BE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

(For Beacon to publish on Sunday, February 26).

PLEASE SUBMIT ANY AND
ALL ARTICLES BY THIS
DATE AT THE LATEST.

Your Connection to Care

When you are facing a difficulty, faith issue, or serious illness, your pastoral care team is here for you. Pastors David and Amanda are easy to reach and available to you. Their contact information is below:



David S. Cooney, ext. #103
cell: 240-529-8887
david.cooney@damascusumc.org



Amanda McMurtrey, ext. #104
office: 301-253-0022
amanda.mcmurtrey@damascusumc.org

They can also help connect you to a Stephen Minister.

ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

Congratulations to Justin & Bree (Feuillet) Barrick on the birth of their son, Brantley Clifford Barrick on December 21, 2016. Grandparents are JP & Donna Feuillet and Jeff & Sue Barrick.

Pray for the family and friends of **Mary Richards** who passed away Friday, January 20. Her service was held here at DUMC on Tuesday, January 24.

Pray for **Carol Taylor** and family with the passing of her mother, Joyce Dooley, on January 18, in Bethesda, MD. A private service was held at the family home in Clarksburg, MD.

Pray for **Sharon Warfield** and family with the death of her mother, Betty Lee Watkins VanGlabek, on Sunday, January 8, 2017, at Arbor Acres United Methodist Retirement Community in Winston Salem, NC. The service will be held at Providence United Methodist Church, Monrovia, on Sunday, February 5, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. with a private inurnment.

Pray for those receiving medical care, going through tests, facing surgery or in recovery: **Pennie Adams** (Cochlear implant), **Benjamin Bautista** (developmental concerns), **David Bellefleur** (Hank's brother recovering from motorcycle accident), **Mary Burton** (heart issues), **Linne Carrier**, **Ann Cochran**, **Don Cosman**, **Patty Crane** (Cheryl Minekime's cousin with medical issues), **Pat Duvall**, **Larry Froeberg** (Karen Taylor's father recovering from complications from back surgery), **April Fry** (Diane Fry's daughter-in-law with M.S.), **Di-ane Fry**, **Marianne Goldup**, **Patsy Kressig** (Judy's mom), **Miel Linthicum**, **Jeanette Long**, **Daniel Lorenzo** (Angie Thompson's brother with heart failure), **Tom Mielke** (Marilyn Kinsey's son-in-law with M.S.), **Teresa Morella** (recovering from back surgery), **Larry Mullinix** (recovering from brain surgery), **Neal Pardini** (leg vascular problems), **Carole Sacco** (Gina Wilson's sister-in-law) liver disease and candidate for a transplant, **Jerry Smith** (step-son to Joyce Patrick and brother to Sharon Warfield) undetermined medical issues, **Randy Smith** (Sally Boyer Smith's husband) recovering from heart surgery, **Dorothy Stull**, at home under hospice care, **Karen Turner** (Kathy Jones' niece with Lupus), **Bill Walcott**, and **Matthew Works** (Nick's brother) surgery and radiation on spine tumors.

Pray for those who have been diagnosed with cancer including **Patty Benson** (Doug's wife), **Ann Boyer** (Kevin's mom), **Sue Bradley**, **Steve Capkovits** (Ruth Harward's cousin), **Karen Caroscio** (Stephanie Vara Carter's mother-in-law), **Mickey Cochran**, **Natalie Cosman** (Don & Rita's granddaughter), **Tammy Lee Cosman** (Don & Rita's sister-in-law), **Lauren Dunham**, **JP Feuillet**, **Dawn Helton** (Marge Taylor's daughter), **Rick Henderson** (Ken's brother), **Willa Kackley** (Judy Benedict's aunt), **Jan LaDuke** (Julie Kinnaman's cousin), **Leroy** (friend of the Malley's going thru kidney cancer treatment), **Dave Lingrell**, **Christopher Mato-vich** (Gerry Pardini's nephew) **Frances Richards** (Rev. Beth Richards' sister) and **Tim Sanner** (Dan Krotz's uncle).

Continue to pray for all who serve in the military: The following are stationed in the United States: **John Clayton** – Army (Cathy Heinbaugh's brother), **Thomas LaMaster** – Navy (Ted & Esther Samakouris' grandson), **Gregory Lee** – Army (Cara Hardick Lee's husband), **Benjamin J. Saunders** – Navy (son of Connie Ross), **Alex Sauter** – Marines (son of Todd & Kelly), and **Kossi (Alfred) Setodji** – Army (son of Philip and Mary Davi Avudutu).